



**ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT
Academic Year 2017 - 2018**

Bratislava, November 2018

1. THE COMMISSION	3
<i>Academic Year 2017 - 2018 Commission Board</i>	3
<i>Fulbright Commission Office</i>	4
2. THE FULBRIGHT AWARDS	4
<i>Fulbright Scholarship for Graduate Studies</i>	4
<i>Fulbright Awards for Research and Lecturing</i>	5
<i>Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program</i>	6
3. OTHER PROGRAMS	6
<i>Fulbright Specialist Program</i>	6
<i>Humphrey Fellowship Program</i>	6
<i>Inter Country Travel Program</i>	7
<i>The United States Institutes for 2018</i>	7
4. GRANT SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	7
5. ADVISING ACTIVITIES	8
6. ALUMNI	9
7. ADMINISTRATION, STAFF AND FUNDING	10

1. THE COMMISSION

Based on the Agreement between the Slovak Republic and the United States of America (198/2005, 303/2017 Z. z. Law register) the J. William Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange is responsible for administering and supervising the Fulbright Program in the Slovak Republic.

The Commission strives to:

- To support outstanding individuals in both countries who will contribute to extend expertise in their field of specialization;
- To enable leading U.S. and Slovak scholars, students and professionals to be involved in educational and research exchanges, and to develop of relationship and cooperation;
- To increase expertise in fields in which lecturing is provided and/or research is conducted in both countries;
- To extend activities to establish cost sharing programs with participating institutions;
- To serve as an advising center for individuals and institutions on information about study and research possibilities in both countries.

The bi-national **Board of the Directors** oversees the operation of the Commission. Both the Slovak Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport and the U.S. Ambassador to Slovak Republic appoint the Board members and serve as Honorary Chairmen.

The Board has the responsibility for setting long term goals and priorities of the program, program activities, selection and nomination of grantees, and coordination of finances of the Commission.

Academic Year 2017 - 2018 Commission Board

Honorary Chairmen:

Martina LUBYOVÁ Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

Adam STERLING U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic

U.S. Members:

Bruna JAKUB Entrepreneur, *Treasurer*

David DUERDEN Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S Embassy Bratislava (since September 2018)

Jason KHILE Public Affairs Officer, U.S Embassy Bratislava (till June 2018)

Griffin ROZELL Assistant Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bratislava

Aaron WALTER Associate Professor, Center for European Studies, Cyril and Methodius University, Trnava

Slovak Members:

Jozef BÁTORA	Professor, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava
Marek MOŠKA	Director General, Section of International Relations and European Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, <i>Alternate Treasurer</i>
Zuzana POLAČKOVÁ	Researcher, Prognostic Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences
Jana TOMKOVÁ	Director, Department of Cultural Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Fulbright Commission Office

Nora HLOŽEKOVÁ	Executive Director
Denisa BEZÁKOVÁ	Finance Officer
Juraj BRYCHTA	Program and Study Officer (till December 2017)
Zuzana KOPČANOVÁ	Program and Study Officer (since March 2018)
Dáša TAKO VELICHOVÁ	Program Officer (Maternal leave since June 2018)

2. THE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

The Commission administers and supervises a variety of high-profile award programs for U.S. and Slovak citizens based on open and merit-based competition.

The Commission Board takes into account the recommendations of selection committees focusing on professional skills, academic achievements, promising career development, financial means available, and other program requirements; and announces the final nomination of Fulbright grantees.

Fulbright Scholarship for Graduate Studies

Slovak and U.S. graduate students can apply for up to 9-months fellowships for independent research or study at Slovak or U.S. institutions, respectively. Candidates are required to have an outstanding university record and to submit high-quality, well-conceived projects.

Slovak applicants can conduct independent research; and if funding available to enroll in non-degree or Master's programs. They can apply in all fields except clinical medicine, MBA and LL.M. Candidates without extensive U.S. study experience are given preference.

U.S. applicants can pursue individual research projects under the leadership of a Slovak expert in the respective field. Knowledge of Slovak is required for commensurate with the level needed in fields such as political science, history, linguistics, and anthropology.

Slovak Students

NAME	HOME INSTITUTION	PROJECT	PLACEMENT	*
CHUPÁČOVÁ Jaroslava	Comenius University Bratislava	Therapy and Approaches in Treatment of Pathogenic yeasts	University of Texas in San Antonio	6
GRAMBLÍKOVÁ Barbora	Comenius University Bratislava	Commercial Law	UCLA Berkeley	6
HORVATHÓVA Dorota	University of Leicester, GB	Fiction of J. Oates	NYU	6
MAŇO Peter	Comenius University Bratislava Masaryk University Brno, CR	Evolutionary and Cognitive Anthropology	University of Connecticut	10
SMOLENOVÁ Ivana	Prague Security Institute, CR	International security Policy	Columbia University, NY	18

*Duration/Months

Fulbright Awards for Research and Lecturing

U.S. scholars with comprehensive experience propose projects on research or lecturing at a Slovak host institution. The applications are welcomed in any field; although preference may be given to the needs of Slovak academic institutions. Candidates without extensive research or lecturing experience in SR are given preference.

Slovak scholars who hold a PhD. degree (in arts and some other fields they prove comparable professional experience) include an invitation letter from the U.S. institution in the application. All areas of research or lecturing except clinical medicine are eligible. Candidates without extensive U.S. research or study experience are given preference.

U.S. Scholars

NAME	HOME INSTITUTION	PROJECT	PLACEMENT	*
BROOKS Taggart	University of Wisconsin	Regional Business Cycle Indicators	University of Economics Bratislava	4
RUBENS Arthur	Florida Gulf Coast University	International Business	College of Management, Bratislava Campus	4
VAN DOVER Kenneth	Lincoln University, PA	Contemporary American Literature	Comenius University	5

*Duration/Months

Slovak Scholars

NAME	HOME INSTITUTION	PROJECT	PLACEMENT	*
GÁBRIŠ Tomáš	Comenius University Bratislava	The Legal History of Slovak Immigrants to US	University of Pittsburgh, OH	5
GANOBJAK Michal	Slovak Technical University Bratislava	Preservation of Cultural Heritage – Aerogel Materials	MIT, MA	6
HAJDÚK Michal	Comenius University Bratislava	Schizophrenia Treatment	University of Texas in Dallas	4
KOLEŠÁROVÁ Mária	Comenius University Bratislava	Ethical Frameworks of Big Data in Genomics	Georgetown University, D.C.	6
RYBÁŘ Marek	Masaryk University Brno	Party Strategies and Party Linkages	Wayne State University, MI	6
SOKOL Juraj	Comenius University Martin	Biomarkers in Acute Liver Failure	University of North Carolina	6

*Duration/Months

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program

The Slovak secondary schools receive assistance in strengthening English language instructions by establishing a qualified native speaker presence. At the same time, U.S. participants gain from intensive cross-cultural interaction and research opportunities.

Assistants

NAME	HOME INSTITUTION .	PLACEMENT	*
BENJAMIN Michael	St. John's University, NY	Gymnázium Snina	10
BRNGER Paige	Wheaton College, MA	Gymnázium I. Kraska Rimavska Sobota	10
HELLER Elizabeth	Temple University, PA	Obchodná akadémia Senica	10
HUGHES Lea	Scripps College, CA	Stredná škola masmediálnych štúdií Bratislava	10
JUVAN Isabel	Elmhurst College, IL	Pedagogická a sociálna akadémia Prešov	10
RITZERT Brenna	St. Joseph's University, PA	Obchodná akadémia Trebišov	10
SIESS Jan	Rutgers University, NJ	Stredná odborná škola Handlová	10
WARPINSKI Chloe	Arizona State University, AZ	Gymnázium Gelnica	10
WORSFOLD Sara	Northwest Missouri State University, MO	Obchodná akadémia Žilina	10

*Duration/Months

3. OTHER PROGRAMS

Fulbright Specialist Program

The program is a short-term complement to the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program. It attracts those U.S. experts who otherwise would not be able to participate in one or two semester program.

Slovak academic institutions can invite a U.S. expert for 2 - 6 weeks to lecture, assist in developing curricula and educational materials, participate or lead seminars or workshops, assist in faculty development, etc. The selection and placement can be handled within 3 months.

NAME	INSTITUTION IN U.S.	PROJECT	PLACEMENT IN SR	*
CROWE Ruth	New York University School of Medicine	Training on Objective Structured Clinical Examination	Medical School, Comenius University Bratislava	2
STEVENS Paul	Children's Hospital in Philadelphia	Complex Congenital Heart Disease Management Training	Medical School at Comenius University and Pediatric Cardiac Center in Bratislava	2

*Duration/Weeks

Humphrey Fellowship Program

The program enables professionals at a mid-point in their career to participate in a 10 months study and related professional experience at U.S. institutions in fields such as environmental management, finances, human resources management, urban planning, communications, drug abuse education, etc. Final selection of nominees from over 150 countries is made at the U.S State Department:

NAME	INSTITUTION IN SR	PROJECT	PLACEMENT IN U.S.	*
VACHNOVÁ Alena	Freelance	Economic Development	Boston University, NY	10

*Duration/Months

Inter Country Travel Program

This program provides Slovak institutions with an opportunity to seek funding for travel expenses to invite U.S. Fulbright grantees from other countries in Europe to lecture in the Slovak Republic.

- Professor Bruce Locke, Fulbright Grantee in the Czech Republic, presented on Plasma Discharges Formed in Contact with Liquids, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Comenius University Bratislava.

The United States Institutes for 2018

These programs are 5-weeks programs focusing on American Studies and civic society affairs. The candidates are selected through worldwide competition:

NAME	CURRENT AFFILIATION	INSTITUTE	AFFILIATION
BLAHÚT Miloš	Assistant Professor, Institute of British and American Studies, Prešov University	American Contemporary Literature	Seattle University, WA
FUTÓ Gilbert	Assistant Professor, Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics Bratislava	U.S. Political Thought	Amherst College, MA
LAJČÁK Lubomír	Faculty of Law, Comenius University Bratislava	Civic Engagement	University of South Carolina
MICHALÍKOVÁ Katarína	Teacher, Gymnazium Goliánova, Nitra	Secondary Educators	University of Illinois



Mr. Gilbert Futo

4. GRANT SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

The Fulbright year consists of recruitment and selections of candidates for programs administered. It also requires planning of academic cycles, finances, advertising, outreach activities. There is an Emergency Action Plan in place to provide guidance to grantees in variety of situations.

Regular checks and visits have been made to host institutions to check on the professional performance of the grantees and the cooperation with the respective host institutions in both countries.

A/ September 5 -8, 2017, Bratislava: The Orientation Program for incoming U.S. grantees, briefing on the terms and conditions that go with respective awards, on highlights of Slovak history, culture, economy and politics. During the program there was also a reception held to celebrate the amendment of the bilateral agreement and introduction of national visa.

The English teaching assistants took part in a session that focused on methodology and practical issues connected with teaching English at Slovak secondary schools.

B/ The annual *Mid-Year Conference* for U.S. grantees affiliated in the Slovak and Czech Republics took place January 31 – February 3, 2018, Trešť, Czech Republic. U.S. Embassy representatives/Board members from Bratislava and Prague joined the grantees. A session was devoted to discuss cultural sensitivity, diversity and harassment issues reflecting the fact that the group of grantees was diverse and experienced cultural differences.

C/ The *Retreat for English Teaching Assistants*, June 14 – 17, 2018, in High Tatras. In individual and group discussions the experiences were discussed and based on recommendation the Commission has redesigned supporting materials both for ETAs and the host institutions.



D/ *The Pre-Departure Program* for the Slovak Fulbright Grantees departing to the U.S. in the AY 2018-2019, was held in Bratislava, June 19, 2018. Its program focused on all aspects of the departure such as terms and conditions of awards, visa, health insurance, financial matters, housing etc. Alumni of the programs and representatives of the U.S. Embassy participated in the event as well.

5. ADVISING ACTIVITIES

Part of the Commission’s activities is the operation of its Advising Center, that also is a part of the worldwide network EducationUSA, sponsored by the U.S. State Department.



The Fulbright staff works together to provide services for those contemplating undergraduate and graduate studies in the U.S. through speaking engagements, participation on fairs, and contact with appropriate staff at schools and universities. Speaking engagements highlight Fulbright grant opportunities and also feature student advising, and vice versa. All opportunities are used to create synergy between grant promotion and advising. Services are being provided free of charge. The trend has been to utilize advising materials and online, together with webinars on variety of topics concerning U.S. higher education.

The Commission cooperates with local InfoUSA Centers, which provide resources on political, economic, cultural, educational and social life in the U.S. These are located in cities of Košice, Bratislava and in Banská Bystrica. The InfoUSA Centers in Košice and in Banská Bystrica are also a part of EducationUSA worldwide network.



In May 2018 **Regional Educational Advising Coordinator Ms. Gordana Mirchijk** visited the Fulbright Commission to discuss strategies in advising, regional cooperation and advisor training.

Statistics:

Walk-in Visitors	Phone Inquires	E-mail Inquires	Outreach	FaceBook	U.S. Institutions Representatives	Web Unique Visitors
110	88	375	4,090*	1,016	5	34, 327

*including visitors of InfoUSA Centers

Outreach Activities:

❖ October

Seminar on Sports Scholarships in the U.S. at University Library Bratislava, in cooperation with the agency TM Sport Agency Bratislava;

VAPAC Study and Career Fair, Bratislava: For the first time the Commission participated in the largest educational fair in the Slovak Republic. During 3 days there were over 8 300 visitors (high school students, high school career advisors, graduate students and parents).



❖ November

Annual GOUSA! Educational Fair celebrated the International Education Week. The venue was the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. Up to 200 high school and university students and faculty from local universities and schools discussed with representatives of Fulbright Commission, U.S. Embassy and various Slovak agencies opportunities for grant fellowships, university studies and work and travel in the U.S.

LLM Fair Vienna - joint project of the Fulbright Commissions in Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovak Republic, U.S. Embassy Ljubljana and EducationUSA network to promote U.S. law schools and scholarships.

❖ December

InfoUSA Centers Representatives Jozef Fabrici, Martina Jesenská, Zuzana Kopčanová and Ľudo Zupko together with the Commission staff were briefed on latest developments and trends in the Slovak educational landscape, information on international trends and developments in HE in U.S. and Europe.

❖ June

Presentation on Essay writing and study opportunities in the US at Gymnasium Grosslingova

❖ August

Caravan Show of the U.S. Embassy - celebrating 100 years of U.S. and Slovak relations - Fulbright staff participated at events in Žiar nad Hronom, Handlova, Kremnica, Zvolen and Banská Bystrica;

❖ September

Slovak English Language Teachers Conference, Košice, - information on programs available for secondary school teachers and students.

6. ALUMNI

Both the U.S. and Slovak alumni remain in close contact with the Commission. They are invited to participate in the evaluation and selection procedures for the various program competitions, and they serve as contacts and hosts for the incoming grantees.

A/ Comenius University awarded exceptional faculty and students:

- **Associate Professor Mária Huttová, Fulbright Fellow 95-96 at University of Pittsburgh**, has launched during her time as the Head of the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava,

significant changes in the concept of study programs, and contributed to a major shift in approach of curriculum design of language programs at the whole Faculty;

- **Katarina Jurikova, Fulbright Fellow 2015/2016 at Stowers Institute for Molecular Research**, launched together with the team of the Department of Genetics, Comenius University Bratislava a project called Genetics on Wheels. The aim of project is to promote genetics and natural sciences to Slovak secondary school students and teachers.

B/ **Pavol Miškovský, Fulbright Fellow 2005-2006 to Iowa State**, head of the Department of Biophysics and the Center of Interdisciplinary Biosciences at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of P. J. Šafárik University in Košice, he founded SAFTRA Photonics as UPJŠ startup. For its Nanoscreen project, he and his team won the Main Startup Award for the Best Slovak Startup for 2017.

C/ **Professor Mikuláš Huba, Fulbright Fellow at College of the Atlantic, Maine, AY 2000-2001**, was awarded by the President of the Slovak Republic with the Order of Ľudovít Štúr, First Class order to appreciate his outstanding achievements in environmental sciences.

D/ **Professor Milan Kováč, 2014 Fulbright Fellow at Missouri State University** and his international research team in the northern Guatemalan jungle -- using new aerial laser scanning -- discovered remains of a Mayan metropolis of 15 million people (and 60,000 buildings, plazas, and pyramids) that collapsed in the 9th century.



7. ADMINISTRATION, STAFF AND FUNDING

The respective fiscal year of the Fulbright Commission is observed as set by U.S. (October 1 – September 30) and Slovak (January 1 – December 31) regulations. The financial income is composed of two sources of funding: allocation from the Slovak Government and the Government of the U.S.A.

In-kind contributions to the Commission include tuition waivers, funds allocated to other programs through other U.S. or Slovak government activities, health insurance for the grantees, private in-kind sponsorship etc.

Annually the Commission is subject to an independent audit of receipts and disbursements and on the internal control structure. The Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport also audits the expenses from the Slovak government contribution separately.

A/ Mr. Juraj Brychta quit his job at the Commission and in a 2-round competition process Ms. Zuzana Kopčanová has been selected for the position of Program and Study Officer. She has over 7 years' experience with operating the InfoUSA center in Banská Bystrica and she is also skilled educational advisor and administrator.

B/ Annual Executive ED Meeting in Budapest, April 18 - 20, 2018, The European Executive Directors meet representatives of the U.S. State Department to discuss budget, safety, security measures and implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) into the mutual cooperation and exchange of information.

C/ Fulbright Advocacy Day at the U.S. Congress - May 24 - 25, 2018. The Executive Directors from all over the world together with U.S. Fulbright alumni met with the Republican members of The U.S. House of the Representatives in D.C. discussing the Fulbright Program.

D/ NAFSA Conference, May 29 - June 1, 2018, Philadelphia - meetings with Assistant Secretary of the State Department Ms. Nancy Royce, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board Vice Chair Mr. Mark Pryor, IIE representatives, Fulbright program campus advisors, and presenting Slovak Republic at EducationUSA booth.



E/ Ms. Anna DUNN, Student at University of Wisconsin, Madison, joined the Commission as a Summer Intern in June – August, 2018. She was assisting with developing of information materials for departing Slovak grantees, information brochures for recruiting U.S. scholars and students to apply to Slovak Republic.

Review of Financial Sources Fiscal Year 2018

Income	USD
U.S. Government Contribution	425,109
Slovak Government Contribution	213,230
Other U.S. Government Contribution	159,300
Surplus Program Funds from previous FY	216,332
Subtotal	1,013,769
In-Kind Contributions not included in the Commission's accounting	USD
Fulbright Specialist Program	8,200
Humphrey Fellowship	31,000
Study Institutes	40,000
Subtotal	79,200
TOTAL INCOME	1,092,969

Expenses (in USD)	USD
Program Expenses	364,513
Grant Supporting Expenses*	54,826
Administrative Expenses	187,917
TOTAL EXPENSES	607,256

*Grant Supporting Expenses cover:

- Information Programs for U.S. and Slovak Grantees
- Grant Supplement Expenses for U.S. and Slovak Grantees
- Educational Material
- Web Page and Social Media Management
- In-country Travel
- Operation of the Advising Center

Not included are costs for the Accident and Sickness Insurance for all grantees provided by the U.S. State Department.